THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (c) Doordarshan has informed that currently, there is no proposal for levy of carriage charges on private channels beamed under its DTH bouquet, Prasar Bharati is hosting private TV channel free of charge for a period of two years.

(b) Yes, Sir.

D.D. Revenue

1271. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) Whether there has been any improvement in the revenue of DD during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Commercial revenues of DD in the last two years is as follows:

Year	Commercial Revenue (Rs. in crores)
2003-2004	530.23
2004-2005	665.27

(c) Does not arise.

Down-linking policy for private TV channels

†1272. SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prepared any down-linking policy for the private TV Channels;

(b) if so, the purpose for making such a policy and details thereof;

(c) whether there is any provision to exercise control over objectionable scenes and contents broadcasted by these channels; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Hitherto, there was no direct control over television channels uplinking from abroad. The only control was on their transmission/retransmission through the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995. There was no control on reception per se of any television channel being uplinked from abroad. In view of this, the Government formulated policy guidelines for downlinking which have been issued recently. These guidelines provide for registration of all TV channels uplinked from broad and downlinked into India. They also provide that any entity/company desirous of downlinking TV channels will obtain permission from Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India. These guidelines were *inter-alia* required for:

- regulating the channels uplink from abroad,
- providing a level playing field between India and Foreign Broadcasters,
- ensuring accountability for revenues collected and content telecast, by channels uplinking from abroad,
- ensuring physical and legal presence for all regulatory issues of such channels, and
- establishing credentials of such service providers.

Detailed Guidelines are available on the Ministry of I & B's website http//mib.nic.in.

(c) and (d) TV channels transmitted/retransmitted through the Cable TV Network and DTH Network are required to adhere to the Programme and Advertising Code prescribed in the Cable TV Network Rules, 1994, in accordance with the Cable TV Network (Regulation) Act, 1995 and DTH guidelines respectively. An Inter-ministerial Committee is already looking into violation of the Codes and action is being taken against the channels violating the code from time to time.

Now through the downlinking guidelines, adherence to these codes has also been made obligatory upon all channels uplinking from abroad and downlinked into India and violations of conditions of downlinking will invite further action.